

49 Stillson Road
McCleary, WA 98557

January 19, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Last November there was a settlement that was reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. I am writing this letter to go on record as supporting that settlement. It has been a long time coming, and now that the dispute has been resolved, America can turn its attention to improving the economy.

The recession that we are in was actually started when the government announced the antitrust suit against Microsoft. The market started to decline, and no one did anything about it. It took an official announcement of a recession before the government finally wanted to get this over with. A healthy Microsoft gave us the best economy in history, and a hamstrung Microsoft gave us a recession. You do the math. I am sure that the committee that has been set up to monitor Microsoft should satisfy everyone in the government who pressed on with the suit. They will be constantly watched, and thus, have to abide by the terms.

This is a win-win settlement. Microsoft no longer has to waste time and money in court, and the economy will be allowed to rebound out of this nasty recession.

Sincerely,


J.E. Mansmith